

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

CRYPTOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION TERMINAL, CRYPTOGRAPHIC
COMMUNICATION CENTER APPARATUS, CRYPTOGRAPHIC
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, AND STORAGE MEDIUM

5 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is based upon and claims the
benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent
Application No. 11-058592, filed March 5, 1999; the
entire contents of which are incorporated herein by
10 reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is based on Japanese Patent
Application No. 11-58592, filed March 5, 1999, the
contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.
15 The present invention relates to a cryptographic
communication terminal, cryptographic communication
center apparatus, cryptographic communication system,
and storage medium and, more particularly, to a
cryptographic communication terminal, cryptographic
20 communication center apparatus, cryptographic
communication system, and storage medium which are
characterized in that a plurality of cryptographic
algorithms can be used and a new cryptographic
algorithm can be safely and efficiently registered and
25 used.

Various current devices connected to a network
incorporate encryption techniques to prevent breaches

of security. With the use of the these incorporated encryption techniques, electronic business transactions, contents distribution businesses, and the like using networks as media are growing. These businesses depend on the safety of the incorporated encryption techniques. Under the circumstances, studies on the design of safe, efficient cryptographic algorithms have been enthusiastically conducted.

According to a conventional system incorporating an encryption technique, once system specifications are determined by standardization or the like, a cryptographic scheme that can be used by the system is fixed. Consequently, the security level of the system is also fixed.

On the other hand, studies on cryptanalysis of cryptographic algorithms have also been enthusiastically conducted to evaluate the safety of the cryptographic algorithms concurrently with the studies on the design of safe cryptographic algorithms.

Therefore, the cryptographic scheme used by a given system may be actually broken.

If the cryptographic scheme used by the system is broken in this manner, the system cannot be used unless the cryptographic scheme is updated. That is, in order to continue safe network communication, the cryptographic scheme of the system must be updated.

In updating the cryptographic scheme through

the network, however, a problem is posed in terms of safety. For example, confidential information may leak to the outside. If the cryptographic scheme is to be updated without the mediacy of a network, updating must
5 be performed in all the devices in the system one by one. This makes it impossible to efficiently update the scheme.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to
10 provide a cryptographic communication terminal, cryptographic communication center apparatus, cryptographic communication system, and storage medium which can perform cryptographic communication by selecting a cryptographic algorithm.

15 It is another object of the present invention to provide a cryptographic communication terminal, cryptographic communication center apparatus, cryptographic communication system, and storage medium which safely and efficiently register a new crypto-
20 graphic algorithm through a network, and can make the registered algorithm usable.

According to the first aspect of the present invention, a cryptographic communication terminal
25 comprises a cryptographic algorithm storage section for storing not less than one type of cryptographic algorithm used for cryptographic communication, and outputting a designated cryptographic algorithm, a key

information storage section for storing a key used for
cryptographic communication corresponding to the
cryptographic algorithm and for outputting the
designated key, control means for designating, with
5 respect to the cryptographic algorithm storage section
and the key information storage section, which
cryptographic algorithm and key are to be used in the
cryptographic communication, and encryption/decryption
means for decrypting received encryption information by
10 using the cryptographic algorithm designated with
respect to the cryptographic algorithm storage section
and the key designated with respect to the key
information storage section, and encrypting information
to be transmitted.

15 *Sub a1* ~~According to the second aspect of the present~~
invention, a cryptographic communication center
apparatus comprises the cryptographic communication
terminal defined in claim 3, and when the algorithm
decryption key is requested from the partner, inputs
20 the corresponding algorithm decryption key as the
information to be transmitted to the partner to the
~~encryption/decryption means.~~

25 According to the third aspect of the present
invention, there is provided a computer readable
storage medium storing a program which is used by a
cryptographic communication apparatus serving as one
of information transmitting and receiving apparatuses

in cryptographic communication and implements a cryptographic algorithm storage section for storing not less than one type of cryptographic algorithm used for cryptographic communication, and outputting a designated cryptographic algorithm, a key information storage section for storing a key used for cryptographic communication corresponding to the cryptographic algorithm and outputting a designated key, control means for designating, with respect to the cryptographic algorithm storage section and the key information storage section, which cryptographic algorithm and key are to be used in the cryptographic communication, and encryption/decryption means for decrypting received encryption information by using the cryptographic algorithm designated with respect to the cryptographic algorithm storage section and the key designated with respect to the key information storage section, and encrypting information to be transmitted.

With these means, the present invention can perform cryptographic communication upon selectively using cryptographic algorithms. This makes it possible to perform cryptographic communication upon selecting a safer cryptographic scheme.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects

and advantages of the invention may be realized and obtained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

5 The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate presently preferred embodiments of the invention, and together with the general description given above and the detailed description of the preferred embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

FIG. 1 is a view showing an example of a cryptographic communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

15 FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an example of the arrangement of a cryptographic communication terminal;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an example of the arrangement of a cryptographic communication center apparatus;

20 FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing how cryptographic communication is performed between terminals;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing updating procedure #1 for acquiring both a cryptographic algorithm and its decryption key from a cryptographic communication center apparatus 3;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing updating procedure #2 for acquiring only a cryptographic algorithm from another cryptographic communication terminal in a cryptographic communication system according to the second embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing updating procedure #2 for acquiring a cryptographic algorithm decryption key from a cryptographic communication center apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The embodiments of the present invention will be described below.

In each embodiment, encrypted data are represented by $E1(x)[y]$, $E2(x)[y]$, $E(z, x)[y]$, and the like. In this case, reference symbol x denotes a key used for encryption; y , data to be encrypted; z , an algorithm used for encryption, and $a|b$, a concatenation between a and b .

FIG. 1 shows an example of an cryptographic communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

In the cryptographic communication system in FIG. 1, cryptographic communication terminals 2 (to be also referred to as the terminals 2 hereinafter) and a cryptographic communication center apparatus 3 (to be also referred to as the center 3 hereinafter) are

connected to various networks 1 such as the Internet and LAN. Communication (or cryptographic communication) between the terminals 2 and between the terminal 2 and the center 3 can be executed through the network 1.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an example of the arrangement of the cryptographic communication terminal.

The cryptographic communication terminal 2 is comprised of a control section 11, key information storage section 12, cryptographic algorithm storage section 13, encryption/decryption section 14, key information decryption section 15, cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16, and ID storage section 17. The terminal 2 is a means having computer elements such as a CPU and memory, and implements the above functional means by the operation of the CPU controlled by programs. The terminal 2 also includes a communication unit (not shown) for network communication.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an example of the arrangement of the cryptographic communication center apparatus.

The cryptographic communication center apparatus 3 is comprised of a control section 21, key information storage section 22, cryptographic algorithm storage section 23, encryption/decryption section 24, terminal key information storage section 25, algorithm

decryption key storage section 26, key encryption
section 27, update cryptographic algorithm storage
section 28, terminal authorization management section
29, and ID storage section 30. Similar to the terminal
5 2, the center 3 is a means having computer elements
such as a CPU and memory, and implements the above
functional means by the operation of the CPU controlled
by programs. The center 3 also includes a communica-
tion unit (not shown) for network communication.

10 Each constituent element of the cryptographic
communication terminal 2 will be described first.

The control section 11 controls the flow of data
by controlling the sections 12 to 17, and supplies, for
example, identification information (ID), messages, and
15 the like to the functional sections 12, 13, and 14.
The control section 11 also selects a private key and
cryptographic algorithm to be used for cryptographic
communication by designating ID information.

The ID storage section 17 stores various IDs,
20 e.g., the IDs of the center 3 and terminal 2, the ID of
an algorithm (Al), and the ID of a key.

The key information storage section 12 stores
encrypted key information (an algorithm decryption key
used to decrypt an encrypted cryptographic algorithm,
25 in addition to key information for cryptographic
communication). Upon reception of the ID of a terminal
or the like and an algorithm ID, the key information

storage section 12 outputs encrypted key information corresponding to these data to the key information decryption section 15.

5 The key information decryption section 15 decrypts and outputs the key information transferred from the key information storage section 12 by using a unique private key.

10 The cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 stores encrypted algorithms. Upon reception of an algorithm ID, the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 outputs an encrypted cryptographic algorithm corresponding to the ID to the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16.

15 The cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 decrypts the cryptographic algorithm output from the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 by using the key received from the key information decryption section 15.

20 The encryption/decryption section 14 encrypts a message M by using the algorithm decrypted by the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 and the communication key decrypted by the key information decryption section 15.

25 Each constituent element of the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3 will be described next.

 The control section 21 controls the flow of

information by controlling the operations of the sections 22 to 30, and supplies IDs and the like to corresponding functional sections. The control section 21 selects a private key and cryptographic algorithm to be used for cryptographic communication by designating ID information, and also selects a cryptographic algorithm for which the terminal 2 generated an update request and a decryption key for the algorithm.

The key information storage section 22 stores private keys used for cryptographic communication between the respective terminals 2 and the center 3. Upon reception of a terminal ID, the key information storage section 22 outputs a corresponding private key to the encryption/decryption section 24.

The cryptographic algorithm storage section 23 stores various cryptographic algorithms. Upon reception of an algorithm ID, the cryptographic algorithm storage section 23 outputs a corresponding cryptographic algorithm to the encryption/decryption section 24.

The terminal key information storage section 25 stores the unique private keys of the respective terminals. Upon reception of a terminal ID, the terminal key information storage section 25 outputs the private key of a corresponding terminal to the key encryption section 27.

The algorithm decryption key storage section 26

a cryptographic algorithm to be used. Note that each of the terminals 2i and 2j has already requested the center 3 for necessary ID information and has received the ID information of the ID storage section 30 in the center 3.

The message M is output from the control section 11 to the encryption/decryption section 14. At the same time, IDA1 is output to the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13, and IDj and IDA1 are output to the key information storage section 12.

In this case, key information is extracted from the key information storage section 12 in accordance with the input ID information and output to the key information decryption section 15. That is, an encrypted private key $E1(Ki)[Kij]$ and algorithm decryption key $E1(Ki)[KA1]$ are respectively output in accordance with IDj and IDA1. In this case, Kij is a key for cryptographic communication between the terminals 2i and 2j. For example, a DES secret key or the like corresponds to this key Kij.

The key information decryption section 15 decrypts this encrypted key information by using key information Ki unique to the terminal, e.g., a password or the key stored in an IC card. Of this information, a decryption key KA1 of the encrypted algorithm A1 is output to the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16, and the key Kij is output to the encryption/decryption

section 14.

The cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 outputs an encrypted cryptographic algorithm $E2(KA1)[A1]$ to the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 on the basis of the ID information input from the control section 11.

The cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 decrypts this input encrypted cryptographic algorithm by using the algorithm decryption key $KA1$ and outputs the resultant data as the cryptographic algorithm $A1$ to the encryption/decryption section 14.

The encryption/decryption section 14 encrypts the message M to be transmitted by using the input message M , cryptographic algorithm $A1$, and private key Kij .

IDi representing the transmitting terminal and $IDA1$ of the cryptographic algorithm to be used for this cryptographic communication are added to ciphertext $E(A1, Kij)[M]$ generated in this manner. A communication unit (not shown) transmits this ciphertext to the terminal $2j$ through the network 1.

In the terminal $2j$ which has received this cryptographic communication, first of all, the control section 11 outputs $IDA1$ to the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13, and IDi and $IDA1$ to the key information storage section 12.

The key information storage section 12, which has received this ID information, outputs an encrypted

5 The key information decryption section 15 decrypts
these pieces of encrypted key information by using key
information Kj unique to the terminal, e.g., a password
or the key stored in an IC card. Of these pieces of
information, KA1 is output to the cryptographic
algorithm decryption section 16, and Kij is output to
10 the encryption/decryption section 14.

The cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 decrypts the cryptographic algorithm E2(KA1)[A1] by using the algorithm decryption key KA1, and outputs the resultant data as the algorithm A1 to the encryption/

20 decryption section 14.

In this manner, cryptographic communication from the terminal 2i to the terminal 2j is realized by using

the cryptographic algorithm A1. In this case, since the algorithm ID to be supplied first can be changed as needed, the cryptographic algorithm can be changed to any cryptographic algorithm as long as it is registered in both the terminals 2i and 2j.

A registration (updating) procedure for acquiring a cryptographic algorithm from the centers that is not held in the terminal 2 and registering the new cryptographic algorithm will be described next. This updating procedure includes update procedure #1 by which both a cryptographic algorithm and its decryption key are acquired from the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3, and updating procedure #2 by which a cryptographic algorithm is acquired from another cryptographic communication terminal 2, and its decryption key is acquired from the center 3. In this embodiment, updating procedure #1 will be described. Update procedure #2 will be described in the second embodiment.

FIG. 5 shows the processing in updating procedure #1 by which both a cryptographic algorithm and its decryption key are acquired from the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3.

FIG. 5 shows a case wherein the terminal 2i requests the center 3 for a new cryptographic algorithm A1' and a cryptographic algorithm decryption key KA1' corresponding to the cryptographic algorithm A1'.

First of all, the terminal 2i transmits, to the center 3, the ID information IDi of the terminal 2i, ID information IDA1' of the up date cryptographic algorithm, and the ID information IDA1 of the cryptographic algorithm to be used for update processing. Note that the terminal 2i has already acquired the ID information IDA1' and the like from the center 3 and has stored them in the ID storage section 17.

In the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3 which has received each ID information, the received information is loaded into the control section 21. The control section 21 inquires of the terminal authorization management section 29 whether the terminal 2i has authorization to acquire a cryptographic algorithm. The terminal 2i transmits password information or the like for identifying itself, as needed. This password information or the like is used by the terminal authorization management section 29 to check authorization. Note that the received information may be loaded into the control section 21 after authorization is confirmed.

Upon confirmation of authorization, of the IDs loaded into the control section 21, the control section 21 outputs IDA1 to the cryptographic algorithm storage section 23, and IDi to the key information storage section 22. In addition, IDi is output to the terminal key information storage section 25; IDA1', to the

algorithm decryption key storage section 26; and
IDAl', to the update cryptographic algorithm storage
section 28.

5 In response to the ID information output from the
control section 21, the cryptographic algorithm storage
section 23 outputs the cryptographic algorithm A1 to
the encryption/decryption section 24. In addition, the
key information storage section 22 outputs a key Kci to
the encryption/decryption section 24. In this case,
10 the key Kci is a common private key (e.g., a DES key)
to be used for cryptographic communication between the
terminal 21 and the center 3.

In accordance with each input ID information, the
terminal key information storage section 25 outputs the
15 key Ki unique to the terminal 2i to the key encryption
section 27, and the algorithm decryption key storage
section 26 outputs the key KAl' for the algorithm KAl'
to the key encryption section 27. Note that the
cryptographic communication center apparatus 3 holds
20 all the keys (Ki, Kj, and the like) unique to the
cryptographic communication terminals 2 which are
registered in the terminal authorization management
section 29.

The key encryption section 27 encrypts the key
25 KAl' by using the input key Ki unique to the terminal
2i and cryptographic algorithm decryption key KAl', and
outputs the encryption result as $E1(Ki)[KAl']$ to the

encryption/decryption section 24.

The update cryptographic algorithm storage section 28 outputs $E2(KA1')[A1']$ to the encryption/decryption section 24 on the basis of the input ID information.

5 Note that $E2(KA1')[A1']$ has been obtained by encrypting the cryptographic algorithm $A1'$ by use of key $KA1'$ requested by the terminal $2i$.

In this manner, the cryptographic algorithm $A1$, private key Kci and updated information $E1(Ki)[KA1']$ and $E2(KA1')[A1']$ are input to the encryption/decryption section 24. The updated information $E1(Ki)[KA1']$ and $E2(KA1')[A1']$ are encrypted by the encryption/decryption section 24 using the private key Kci on the basis of the cryptographic algorithm $A1$.

15 This formed ciphertext $E(A1, Kci)[IDA1' | E1(Ki)[KA1'] | E2(KA1')[A1']]$, IDc , and $IDA1$ are transmitted from the communication unit of the center 3 to the terminal $2i$ through the network 1. That is, ID information (IDc , $IDA1$) is input to the control section 11 of the terminal $2i$, and the ciphertext $E(A1, Kci)[IDA1' | E1(Ki)[KA1'] | E2(KA1')[A1']]$ is input to the encryption/decryption section 14 of the terminal $2i$.

25 In the terminal $2i$ which has received this cryptographic communication, the pieces of received information are loaded into the control section 11. Then, $IDA1$ is output to the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13, and IDc and $IDA1$ are output to the

key information storage section 12.

The key information storage section 12 outputs an encrypted private key $E1(Ki)[Kci]$ and the algorithm decryption key $E1(Ki)[KAl]$ to the key information decryption section 15.

The key information storage section 12, which has received these pieces of encrypted key information, decrypts these pieces of information by using the key information Ki unique to the terminal. In this case, the key KAl and private key Kci are respectively output to the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 and encryption/decryption section 14.

The cryptographic algorithm storage section 13, which has received $IDAl$ from the control section 11, outputs the encrypted cryptographic algorithm $E2(KAl)[Al]$ to the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16. Upon reception of this information, the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 decrypts the encrypted cryptographic algorithm $E2(KAl)[Al]$ by using the algorithm decryption key KAl input from the key information decryption section 15, and outputs Al to the encryption/decryption section 14.

The encryption/decryption section 14 decrypts the ciphertext $E(Al, Kci)[IDAl' | E1(Ki)[KAl'] | E2(KAl')[Al']]$ received from the center 3 by using the cryptographic algorithm Al and private key Kci . After this decryption, in correspondence with $IDAl'$,

$E1(K_i)[KA1']$ and $E2(KA1')[A1']$ are respectively output to the key information storage section 12 and cryptographic algorithm storage section 13.

In this manner, the encrypted key information and encrypt cryptographic algorithm are respectively registered in the key information storage section 12 and cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 in correspondence with the ID information of the cryptographic algorithm $A1'$. Subsequently, therefore, each of the sections 12 and 13 outputs information about $IDA1'$ upon reception of $IDA1'$.

As described above, in the cryptographic communication terminal according to the first embodiment of the present invention, the control section 11 designates a cryptographic algorithm to be used, and the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13, key information storage section 12, and encryption/decryption section 14 are used in accordance with this designation. This allows cryptographic communication upon selecting one of a plurality of cryptographic algorithms for each communication, and inhibits the use of an algorithm exhibiting an increased possibility of being broken, thereby improving the safety of communication.

In addition, according to the cryptographic communication terminal of this embodiment, the cryptographic algorithm itself is encrypted and stored

in the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13. Even if, therefore, the cryptographic algorithm is stolen, cryptanalysis and abuse of the algorithm can be prevented.

5 Furthermore, since keys for cryptographic communication and algorithm decryption keys themselves are encrypted, abuse of these pieces of information can be prevented upon theft. Even if, for example, both an encrypted algorithm decryption key and an encrypted
10 algorithm are stolen, safety can be maintained.

 In the cryptographic communication terminal of this embodiment, when a new cryptographic algorithm and algorithm decryption key are requested, the response data are decrypted and respectively stored in the
15 cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 and key information storage section 12. This makes it possible to safely and efficiently register a new cryptographic algorithm through a network. Once a cryptographic algorithm is registered, the algorithm can be used
20 by only designating the corresponding algorithm ID. That is, the acquired algorithm can be easily used.

 In the cryptographic communication terminal of this embodiment, as the key information decryption section 15 for storing and processing the key K_i and
25 the like unique to the terminal, a tamper-resistant unit whose internal structure is not easily analyzed, e.g., an IC card, is used. This realizes high

robustness against the act of fraudulently acquiring the unique key, and hence can prevent fraudulent leakage of the cryptographic algorithm.

5 The cryptographic communication center apparatus of this embodiment includes the update cryptographic algorithm storage section 28 and key information storage section 22, and transmits a requested cryptographic algorithm and algorithm decryption key to a requesting terminal upon encrypting them. This makes
10 it possible to safely and efficiently distribute new cryptographic algorithms through a network.

Even if, therefore, the currently used cryptographic scheme is broken, the scheme can be quickly updated to a new cryptographic scheme, thus easily
15 realizing continuation of safe network communication.

Furthermore, the cryptographic communication center apparatus of this embodiment encrypts an algorithm decryption key by using a key unique to each terminal 2. Even if, therefore, a distributed
20 algorithm decryption key is stolen, secrecy of the algorithm decryption key can be effectively maintained.

Note that the same effects as described above can be obtained in a cryptographic communication system constituted by cryptographic communication terminals or
25 a cryptographic communication system constituted by a cryptographic communication center apparatus as well as these cryptographic communication terminals.

The second embodiment will be described next.

In this embodiment, another registration
(updating) procedure for acquiring cryptographic
algorithm that is not held in the terminal 2 in the
cryptographic communication system according to the
first embodiment will be described.

A cryptographic communication system according to
the second embodiment has the same arrangement as that
of the cryptographic communication system according to
the first embodiment. These embodiments differ in
cryptographic algorithms and algorithm decryption keys
to be returned. For this reason, a control section
11 has the same arrangement as that in the first
embodiment, and selects a cryptographic algorithm
for which a terminal 2 generates an update request.
These differences are those from the viewpoint of
operation that changes depending on the ID information
transmitted from the terminal 2 and/or ID information
destination rather than those from the viewpoint of
arrangement. Note that the same reference numerals as
in the first embodiment denote the same parts in the
second embodiment, and a detailed description thereof
will be omitted.

The operation of this embodiment will be described
below. Note, however, that since cryptographic
communication using an already registered cryptographic
algorithm is the same as that in the first embodiment,

a description thereof will be omitted, and updating procedure #2 for an algorithm to be newly registered, which is different from updating procedure #1 described in the first embodiment, will be described.

5 FIG. 6 shows processing in updating procedure #2 for causing a given cryptographic communication terminal to acquire only a cryptographic algorithm from another cryptographic communication terminal in the cryptographic communication system according to the
10 second embodiment of the present invention.

 As the first process in updating procedure #2, the process of causing a given cryptographic communication terminal to acquire only a cryptographic algorithm from another cryptographic communication terminal will be
15 described first.

 A terminal 2j has acquired a cryptographic algorithm A1' by updating procedure #1 or #2. Assume that a terminal 2i wants to communicate with the terminal 2j by using the cryptographic algorithm A1' that is not held by the terminal 2i. In this case,
20 before communication, first of all, the terminal 2i acquires and registers the cryptographic algorithm A1' and its decryption key. This registration processing is realized by concurrently generating an acquisition request for each information to the terminal 2j and
25 a center 3.

 When the terminal 2i is to request the terminal 2j

for the new cryptographic algorithm $A1'$, the terminal
2i transmits IDi , ID information $IDA1'$ of a crypto-
graphic algorithm to be updated, and ID information
 $IDA1$ of a cryptographic algorithm to be used for
5 updating to the terminal 2j.

In the terminal 2j which has received these pieces
of information, the pieces of received information are
loaded into the control section 11, and $IDA1$ and $IDA1'$
are output from the control section 11 to a crypto-
10 graphic algorithm storage section 13. In addition,
 IDi and $IDA1$ are output to a key information storage
section 12.

The key information storage section 12, which has
received the ID information, outputs an encrypted
15 private key $E1(Ki)[Kij]$ and algorithm decryption key
 $E1(Kj)[KA1]$ to a key information decryption section 15.
In addition, the key information decryption section 15
decrypts the encrypted key information by using key
information Kj unique to the terminal, e.g., a password
20 or the key held in a IC card, and outputs a key $KA1$ to
a cryptographic algorithm decryption section, and a key
 Kij to an encryption/decryption section.

The cryptographic algorithm storage section 13,
which has received the ID information, outputs an
25 encrypted cryptographic algorithm $E2(KA1)[A1]$ for
cryptographic communication to the cryptographic
algorithm decryption section 16. In addition,

an encrypted cryptographic algorithm $E2(KA1')[A1']$ to be transmitted to the terminal $2i$ is output to an encryption/decryption section 14.

5 A cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 extracts a cryptographic algorithm $A1$ by decrypting the input encrypted cryptographic algorithm $E2(KA1)[A1]$ using the algorithm decryption key $KA1$, and outputs the cryptographic algorithm $A1$ to the encryption/decryption section 14.

10 The encryption/decryption section 14 encrypts the update information $E2(KA1')[A1']$ by using the input cryptographic algorithm $A1$ and private key Kij . This ciphertext $E(A1, Kij)[IDA1' | E2(KA1')[A1']]$, IDj , and $IDA1$ are transmitted to the terminal $2i$ through the
15 network 1.

These pieces of transmitted information are received by the terminal $2i$ and loaded into the control section 11, and $IDA1$ is output to the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13. In addition, the control
20 section 11 outputs IDj and $IDA1$ to the key information storage section 12.

The key information storage section 12 outputs the encrypted private key $E1(Ki)[Kij]$ and algorithm decryption key $E1(Ki)[KA1]$ to the key information
25 decryption section 15 on the basis of the input ID information.

The key information decryption section 15 decrypts

the input encrypt key information by using key information K_i unique to the terminal, e.g., a password or the key held in an IC card. Of the decrypted keys, the key KA_1 is output to the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16, and the key K_{ij} for inter-terminal cryptographic communication is output to the encryption/decryption section 14.

The cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 outputs the cryptographic algorithm $E_2(KA_1)[A_1]$ encrypted on the basis of the input ID information to the cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16. The cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 decrypts the encrypt cryptographic algorithm $E_2(KA_1)[A_1]$ by using the algorithm decryption key KA_1 , and outputs the cryptographic algorithm A_1 to the encryption/decryption section 14.

The encryption/decryption section 14 decrypts the ciphertext $E(A_1, K_{ij})[IDA_1' | E_2(KA_1')[A_1']]$ by using the cryptographic algorithm A_1 and private key K_{ij} . The decrypted information is the encrypted cryptographic algorithm $E_2(KA_1')[A_1']$ and registered in the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13 in correspondence with IDA_1' .

In this manner, the new cryptographic algorithm A_1' is registered in the terminal 2i. In order to make this information $E_2(KA_1')[A_1']$ useable, a decryption key KA_1' for decrypting the information $E_2(KA_1')[A_1']$

and extracting $A1'$ must be acquired. Since this decryption key KAl' is encrypted by using the private key unique to each terminal, this key cannot be acquired from another terminal $2j$. For this reason,
5 the terminal $2i$ must request the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3, which performs overall key management, to issue a decryption key encrypted with the private key unique to the terminal $2i$.

As the second process in updating procedure #2,
10 the process of acquiring the cryptographic algorithm decryption key KAl' from the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3 will be described next.

FIG. 7 shows processing in updating procedure #2 for acquiring a cryptographic algorithm decryption key
15 from the cryptographic communication center apparatus.

First of all, the terminal $2i$ transmits, to the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3, the ID information IDi of the terminal $2i$, ID information $IDKAl'$ of a cryptographic algorithm decryption key
20 to be requested, and the ID information $IDAl$ of a cryptographic algorithm to be used for cryptographic communication.

In the cryptographic communication center apparatus 3 which has received these pieces of ID
25 information, the pieces of received information are loaded into a control section 21. Thereafter, a terminal authorization management section 29 checks

authorization as in updating procedure #1 in the first embodiment. Note that the above pieces of information may be loaded into the control section 21 after this authorization check.

5 Of these pieces of loaded ID information, IDA1 and IDi are respectively output from the control section 21 to a cryptographic algorithm storage section 23 and key information storage section 22. In addition, IDi and IDKA1' are respectively output to the terminal key
10 information storage section 25 and an algorithm decryption key storage section 26.

 The cryptographic algorithm storage section 23 outputs the cryptographic algorithm A1 to an
15 encryption/decryption section 24 in accordance with this input ID information. In addition, the key information storage section 22 outputs a key Kci for cryptographic communication between the terminal and the center to the encryption/decryption section 24 in accordance with the input ID information. A terminal
20 key information storage section 25 outputs the key Ki unique to the terminal 2i to a key encryption section 27 in accordance with the input ID information. The algorithm decryption key storage section 26 outputs a key KA1' to the key encryption section 27 in accordance
25 with the input ID information.

 The key encryption section 27 encrypts the algorithm decryption key KA1' by using the input key Ki

unique to the terminal 2i, and outputs $E1(Ki)[KAl']$ as the encryption result to the encryption/decryption section 24. This encryption result is the encrypted cryptographic algorithm decryption key information generated exclusively for the terminal 2i.

The encryption/decryption section 24 encrypts update information $E1(Ki)[KAl']$ by using the cryptographic algorithm A1 and private key Kci. Ciphertext $E(A1, Kci)[IDKAl' | E1(Ki)[KAl']]$ as the encryption result, IDc, and IDA1 are transmitted to the terminal 2i by the communication apparatus through the network 1.

This cryptographic communication is received by the terminal 2i and loaded into the control section 11. Of the information loaded into the control section 11, IDA1 is output to the cryptographic algorithm storage section 13, and IDc and IDA1 are output to the key information storage section 12.

The key information storage section 12, which has received the ID information, outputs the encrypted private key $E1(Ki)[Kci]$ and algorithm decryption key $E1(Ki)[KAl]$ to the key information decryption section 15 in accordance with the ID information. Upon reception of these pieces of information, the key information decryption section 15 decrypts each key information by using the key information Ki unique to the terminal, e.g., a password or the key held in

procedure #1, a terminal 2 requests the center for two
keys for decrypting a new cryptographic algorithm and
cryptographic algorithm, and the center transmits the
two requested keys to the terminal 2. In contrast to
5 this, in updating procedure #2, a given terminal
requests another terminal for a new cryptographic
algorithm and an algorithm decryption key corresponding
to the center 3.

In addition, in the case of updating procedure #2
10 as well, since cryptographic algorithm transmission
processing and algorithm decryption key transmission
processing are concurrently performed in a terminal and
the center, these pieces of information can be acquired
in the same period of time as that in procedure #1.

15 Note that the present invention is not limited to
each embodiment described above. Various changes and
modifications can be made within the spirit and scope
of the invention.

In each embodiment described above, for example,
20 the keys K_i and K_j and the like unique to all the
terminals 2 which are managed by the center 3 are
common private keys used in DES and the like. However,
the present invention is not limited to this case. For
example, a public key scheme such as RSA may be used,
25 so private and public keys may be respectively held in
each terminal 2 and the center 3. For example, K_i on
the center side serves as a public key, and K_i on the

terminal side serves as a private key.

Although the center 3 in each embodiment does not have a cryptographic algorithm decryption section 16 and key information decryption section 15, the center
5 3 may include these sections to encrypt and store a cryptographic algorithm and the key used for communication so as to have the same cryptographic communication function as that of the terminal 2. That is, the communication function on the center 3 side can be
10 appropriately designed in accordance with various situations, e.g., the security level and external access environments.

In each embodiment described above, cryptographic communication is performed between terminals 2 or
15 between the center 3 and a terminal 2 through a LAN, WAN, Internet, or the like. However, the application range of the present invention is not limited to this case.

For example, even if the system of the present
20 invention is to be used as a LAN or WAN system, the present invention can be applied to an intra-enterprise information management system as well as communication between different corporations. This is because disclosure of certain information to unauthorized
25 persons is often inhibited even within the same corporation. The present invention can also be effectively applied to a mail system.

In addition, the present invention can be applied to a case wherein each terminal 2 serves as a fax transmission/reception apparatus, and cryptographic communication is performed between the apparatuses.

5 This is because even a telephone line can be tapped. In this case, the cryptographic scheme can be easily changed, and a fax network can be effectively used once it is built. In addition, portable telephones, PHS units, and the like may be used as the terminals 2
10 in the present invention.

Assume that scrambling used for cable TV broadcasting or satellite broadcasting, e.g., BS broadcasting, is regarded as encryption. According to the present invention, when this scrambling scheme is
15 broken, this scheme can be quickly and effectively changed to a new scrambling scheme. In this case, a BS tuner corresponds to the terminal 2, and the broadcast station serves as both the terminal 2 and the center 3.

Likewise, the present invention can be applied
20 to an ITV system, a two-way TV system, or the like. In this case, a set-top box corresponds to the terminal 2, and a system on the broadcasting side serves as both the terminal 2 and the center 3.

As is obvious from the above cases, in the present
25 invention, a data transmission line between the terminals 2 and between each terminal 2 and the center 3 is not limited to a cable and may be a radio channel.

In addition, the terminal in this invention is not limited to a single computer holding all the functions described above. For example, when the functions constituting the present invention described in each embodiment are distributed in a server computer and other computers, a collection of these functions is also regarded as a terminal in the present invention.

Note that the apparatuses described in the embodiments can be implemented by loading programs stored in storage media into computers.

The storage medium in the present invention may take any storage forms as long as it is a computer-readable storage medium capable of storing programs. For example, such a storage medium includes a magnetic disk, floppy disk, hard disk, optical disk (CD-ROM, CD-R, DVD, or the like), magneto-optical disk (MO or the like), and semiconductor memory.

In addition, an OS (Operating System) running on a computer on the basis of commands from programs installed from a storage medium into the computer, MW (middleware) such as database management software or network software, or the like may execute part of the processes for implementing this embodiment.

The storage medium in the present invention includes not only a medium independent of the computer but also a storage medium in which a program sent through a LAN, Internet, or the like is downloaded and

stored or temporarily stored.

In addition, the number of storage media is not limited to one, and the storage medium of the present invention also includes a combination of media used to execute the processes in these embodiments. That is, the present invention is not limited to any specific storage arrangement.

Note that the computer in the present invention executes the respective processes in this embodiment on the basis of the programs stored in the storage medium, and the present invention may take any arrangement, e.g., an apparatus consisting of a single device such as a personal computer or a system constituted by a plurality of devices connected to each other through a network.

Furthermore, the computer of the present invention is not limited to a personal computer, and is a generic name for devices and apparatuses capable of implementing the functions of the present invention on the basis of programs, including processing units, microcomputers, and the like contained in data processing devices.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various

modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.